

**INTERNET USAGE DATA RECORDING SYSTEM AND METHOD  
EMPLOYING A CONFIGURABLE RULE ENGINE FOR THE  
PROCESSING AND CORRELATION OF NETWORK DATA**

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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

10 A network usage data recording system and method employing an  
aggregation rule scheme for processing and correlation of network data is  
described. In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method for  
recording network usage. The method includes the step of defining a network  
data collector including an encapsulator, an aggregator and a data storage  
15 system. A set of network accounting data is received via the encapsulator. The  
network accounting data set is converted to a standard data format. The network  
accounting data set is processed via the aggregator, including the steps of  
defining a rule chain and applying the rule chain to the network accounting data  
set to construct an aggregation tree including creating an aggregated network  
accounting data set. The aggregated network accounting data set is stored in the  
data storage system.

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